

# Toposa language

**Toposa** (also Akara, Kare, Kumi, Taposa, Topotha) is a Nilo-Saharan language (Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic) spoken in South Sudan by the Toposa people. Mutually intelligible language varieties include Jiye of South Sudan, Nyangatom of Ethiopia, Karimojong, Jie<sup>[3]</sup> and Dodos of Uganda and Turkana of Kenya. Teso (spoken in both Kenya and Uganda) is lexically more distant.

Contents

Phonology

Consonants

Vowels

Bibliography

References

## Phonology

### Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	Voiceless	p	t		k
	Voiced	b	d		g
Affricate	Voiceless			t͡ʃ	
	Voiced			d͡ʒ	
Fricative			s		
Nasal		m	n	ɲ	ŋ
Flap			r		
Approximant		w	l	j	

- All consonants (except, of course, for /w/ and /j/) can occur in labialized and palatalized forms.

### Vowels

+ATR

Toposa	
Toposa–Jiye	
Native to	South Sudan
Region	Eastern Africa
Ethnicity	Toposa
Native speakers	100,000 (2000) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Nilo-Saharan?</div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Sudanic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nilotic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Nilotic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teso–Turkana <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Toposa</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> </div>
Writing system	none
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	toq
Glottolog	topo1242 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/topo1242</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	i		u
<u>Mid</u>	e		o
<u>Open</u>			

-ATR

	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	ɪ		ʊ
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ		ɔ
<u>Open</u>		a	

- Toposa, like many Nilotic languages, has vowel harmony with two sets of vowels: a set with the tongue root advanced (+ATR) and a –ATR set. +ATR is marked. The vowel /a/ is neutral with respect to vowel harmony.<sup>[4]</sup>
- All nine vowels also occur as devoiced, contrasting with their voiced counterparts. These voiceless vowels occur primarily in prepause contexts. Some Toposa morphemes consist only of a high voiceless vowel; the functional load appears to be much greater with the high vowels than with the lower.<sup>[5]</sup>
- Toposa has tone, which is grammatical rather than lexical. Tone is used to mark case in nouns and tense in verbs.

## Bibliography

- Schröder, Martin C. (1989). "The Toposa Verb in Narrative Structure". *Afrikanistische Arbeitspapiere*. **20**: 129–142.
- Schröder, Martin C.; Helga Schröder (1987a). "Voiceless Vowels in Toposa". *Afrikanistische Arbeitspapiere*. **12**: 17–26.
- Schröder, Martin C.; Helga Schröder (1987b). "Vowel Harmony in Toposa". *Afrikanistische Arbeitspapiere*. **12**: 27–36.

## References

1. Toposa (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/toq/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Toposa" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/topo1242>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Jiye and Jie are the same name, but refer to different varieties
4. Schröder & Schröder 1987b, p. 27
5. Schröder & Schröder 1987a, p. 17

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Toposa\\_language&oldid=950512364](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Toposa_language&oldid=950512364)"

This page was last edited on 12 April 2020, at 13:06 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.

